GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2505
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
LOOK EAST POLICY
Gao Shri Tapir

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of border trades under the `Look East Policy` from North Eastern States to South East Asean countries;

(b) the details of commencement of trade under this policy to South East Asean countries;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to open up border trade with Myanmar and China through different areas of Arunachal Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (b) Pursuant to India`s `Look East Policy`, India has signed a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore and is negotiating CECA with ASEAN and Free Trade Agreement (FTAs) with Thailand.

An Agreement on Border Trade was signed between India and Myanmar on 21.1.94, which was operationalised on 12.4.95. The Agreement envisages that the Border Trade will take place initially through Custom Posts at Moreh in Manipur and Champai in Mizoram, corresponding to Tamu and Rhi in Myanmar.

The volume of border trade over the last 5 years is as follows:

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Year	Export	Import	Total
2002-03	392.20	1262.10	1654.30
2003-04	985.30	884.50	1939.80
2004-05	584.70	490.98	1075.68
2005-06	387	521	908
2006-07	613	269	882

(c) to (e) There are three approved Land Custom Stations on the Indo-Myanmar border viz. Moreh (Manipur), Champai (Mizoram) and Nampong (Arunachal Pradesh) for conducting trade with Myanmar. However, only one Custom Post at Moreh is operational for conducting border trade.